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AGREEMENT BETWEEN GDR AND USSR
ON ESTABLISHMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM

The GDR Ministry for Postal Affairs and Telecommunications and the USSR Ministry of Communications, in order to organize and further develop telecommunications between these two countries, have resolved to enter into an agreement. The official representatives named are:

For the GDR Ministry for Postal Affairs and Telecommunications: Minister
of State Dr Wilhelm Schroeder.

For the USSR Ministry of Communications: Deputy Minister I. W. Klovov.

The above-named officials, after an exchange of proper and lawful credentials, have come to the following agreement:

ARTICLE I

The following telecommunications connections are to be set up between the GWR and the USSR:

1. Telegraph and telephone lines between Berlin and Moscow via the Gdansk and Szczecin amplifying stations in Poland.
2. Two telephone lines between Berlin and Moscow via the amplifying station in Katowice, Poland.
3. A wireless connection between Berlin and Moscow.

Each of the contracting parties is to furnish within its territory the necessary technical installations to assure proper functioning of these connections.

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If necessary, the contracting parties may, by an exchange of letters, agree on the installation of additional telecommunications facilities or on necessary changes in installations at both ends and in existing lines.

ARTICLE II

Each of the contracting parties shall grant to the other unimpeded transmission, through its territory, of telegrams and long-distance calls which originate in other countries or are destined for other countries, such countries to be mutually agreed upon by the contracting parties.

The telecommunications service is to function uninterruptedly on a 24-hour basis?

ARTICLE III

The following types of telegraphic communications shall be permissible between the contracting parties:

Government telegrams, urgent private telegrams, regular private telegrams, press telegrams, telegrams with a prepaid answer, telegraphic transmission of funds, telegrams with acknowledgment of receipt by telegraph or letter, telegrams which are forwarded at the request of the recipient or sender, telegrams of the same text transmitted to various addressees, telegraphic weather reports, day or night letters, service telegrams, and service radiograms.

The following languages are permitted: German, Russian, French, and English.

The text of the telegrams must be readily understandable and written in Latin script. The use of ciphers and codes is permissible only in government telegrams.

ARTICLE IV

The rate charged for telegrams between the GDR and the USSR will be 0.4425 gold franc for each word of a regular private telegram. The per-word proceeds will be divided as follows: the USSR gets 0.285, the GDR 0.0925, and Poland (for transmission) 0.065 gold franc.

Rates for transit telegraph service will be agreed upon by the contracting parties.

The total and transit rates for government and press telegrams of the GDR and the USSR will be 50 percent of the rate for regular private telegrams. If the contracting parties agree, this provision may be extended to similar telegrams of other countries.

The rate for day or night letters shall be one half the rate for regular telegrams.

Service telegrams dealing with postal and telecommunications matters and telegraphic weather reports shall be transmitted free of charge.

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ARTICLE V

The following types of long-distance calls shall be permissible between the GDR and the USSR:

Government calls, service calls, urgent and regular private calls, calls on a special subscription basis, fixed-time calls, calls with previous notification of the person called, person-to-person calls, and information calls.

ARTICLE VI

When preparing, establishing, and terminating connections and for all other operational purposes, telephone operators at both ends will speak German or Russian.

Telephone conversations shall not be subject to a time limit.

In emergencies resulting from extreme overloading of lines, private calls may be limited to 12 minutes.

Charges for long-distance calls accrue from the moment the party called answers the telephone until the moment the party making the call hangs up the receiver.

ARTICLE VII

Charges will be calculated on the basis of the fee for an ordinary 3-minute call, which shall constitute a minimum fee. If the call lasts longer than 3 minutes, each minute in excess of 3 minutes will be charged for at one third of the rate for the first 3 minutes. Each fraction of a minute will be considered a full minute in determining the charge.

No charge shall be made if, through the fault of the telephone service, no connection is established between the party calling and the party called, or if the connection is not satisfactory at the beginning of the conversation.

ARTICLE VIII

The following charges will be made for a regular private call of 3 minutes' duration:

1. Rates charged by USSR:

The minimum charge for long-distance calls to places within the European sector of the USSR up to 40 degrees east of Greenwich (Zone I) shall be 6.00 gold francs. Leningrad, Kiev, and Minsk are in this zone.

For long-distance calls to places east of the 40th meridian, the charges set up for the respective zones will apply, as follows:

Zone II -- from 40 to 60 degrees east of Greenwich, including the city of Sverdlovsk, 9.90 gold francs.

Zone III -- from 60 to 110 degrees east of Greenwich, including the city of Irkutsk, 24.00 gold francs.

Zone IV -- from 110 degrees east of Greenwich, including the rest of the territory of the USSR, 36.00 gold francs.

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2. Rates charged by GDR:

The charge for long-distance calls to places within the entire area of Germany shall be 2.40 gold francs.

3. A transit fee of 2.60 gold francs will accrue to the People's Republic of Poland.

Official calls concerning matters of the postal or telecommunications service between the contracting parties shall be free of charge.

ARTICLE IX

Transit charges for use of the GDR telephone system for long-distance calls between the USSR and countries beyond the borders of the GDR, and for use of the USSR telephone system for long-distance calls between the GDR and countries beyond the borders of the USSR, will be agreed upon by the contracting parties.

ARTICLE X

The unit of currency established under this agreement shall be the gold franc (100 centimes) at a weight of 10/31 gram, pure gold content 0.900.

ARTICLE XI

1. The telecommunications accounts shall be calculated and approved once a month.

2. Immediately after approval of the bills for the last month of the quarter year, the creditor administration shall draw up a bill for the quarter year and submit it, in duplicate, to the debtor administration. The latter, after checking the bill, will return one copy with a notation of acceptance.

ARTICLE XII

The bill for the quarter year is to be checked and paid within 6 weeks of receipt by the debtor administration. At the expiration of this period, 5 percent interest will be added to the amount which one administration owes the other, beginning with the day following the last day of the 6-week period.

ARTICLE XIII

The quarterly bill (computed in gold francs) will be paid by the debtor administration through a bank in the capital of the creditor country, in the currency of the creditor country or in any other manner agreeable to the contracting parties. The debtor will bear all expenses connected with such payment.

ARTICLE XIV

The contracting parties can vote on such changes and additions to this agreement as may evolve from the further development of the telecommunications system.

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All technical details not provided for in this agreement but connected with its execution will be agreed upon by the contracting parties by an exchange of letters.

The official correspondence will be in the German or Russian language.

ARTICLE XV

This agreement is made for an indefinite period of time and becomes effective immediately upon being signed. It may be terminated after 6 months' notice by either of the two contracting parties.

As attestation, those authorized by the contracting parties have signed this agreement and have affixed their seals hereto.

Executed in Moscow on 1 July 1950 in duplicate, in the German and Russian languages, with both texts binding according to law.

By authority of the GDR Ministry
for Postal Affairs and Telecommunications
(signed) Dr Wilhelm Schroeder

By authority of the USSR Ministry
of Communications
(signed) Klovov

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